

## GENERAL NOTES.

**European Widgeon on Long Island in Winter.**—On January 11, 1919, Mr. Wm. de Forest Haynes of New York City shot a fine drake of this rare duck, *Mareca penelope*, on the main pond of the Southside Club near Oakdale, Long Island. The specimen was mounted, and is now in the club collection in the clubhouse. This is the third winter record, and I am indebted to Mr. Samuel Bettle for bringing it to my attention.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City*.

**Breeding of the Black Duck in Lake Co., Ohio.**—Dawson in his 'Birds of Ohio,' states, "If Black Ducks formerly bred in the northern part of this state, as Wheaton supposes, they were probably of this form" (*Anas rubryses tristis*). Jones, 'Catalogue of Ohio Birds' (1903), states, "Dr. Wheaton regarded the Black Duck as a casual summer resident in the northern part of the state, but I find no corroborative evidence to that effect." In the same writer's article, 'Nineteen Years of Bird Migration at Oberlin, O.' (Wilson Bulletin, December, 1914), the Black Duck is listed as a migrant only for Lorain County. Henninger in 'Notes on Some Ohio Birds' (Auk, January, 1910) gives a list of breeding ducks for the state, but the Black Duck is not included, nor have I found any isolated record of the Black Duck nesting in Ohio. Thus it seems the state is without an authentic record, the only evidence being Wheaton's supposition.

Therefore I am pleased to report that the Black Duck has nested regularly the past five years at the Mentor Marsh, and doubtless much longer than this. Adults have been seen in June, and both young and adults through July and August. Probably not over two pair have bred in any one year, as a late August flock of twenty-five was the most seen at any one time. Two specific dates upon which I observed young ducks under unusually favorable conditions are as follows: August 16, 1917, four young birds had fed out of the lily pads into open water that touched the base of the wooded bank skirting the marsh, and I worked slowly down to within twenty feet of them, seated myself and watched them for half an hour with my glass without them appearing disturbed in any way, although fully grown and able to fly. Under such favorable circumstances, I was even able to see the narrow edge of white, back of the violet-purple speculum, each time one chanced to turn on its side and spread a wing.

July 13, 1919, I flushed two young, about two-thirds grown, from under my very feet at the edge of the marsh. These also gave me the best possible view of the wing marks.

Another pleasing experience happened the last week in August, 1918, about dusk. Immature Black Ducks were coming from the direction of the Mentor Marsh to drop into the more open water of the Richmond swamp to feed. A pair of wary old adults, however, would not alight for

some time, but finally did so some distance away; and as I knew I could "sneak upon them" for observation at that particular place, I did so. As I cautiously looked around a corner of button-bushes, there they sat in the floating duck-weed, heads up and ready to jump on the instant, while surrounding them, unconcernedly feeding, were seven young Wood Duck, another species which breeds regularly in the wooded swamp between the two localities mentioned. The young Blacks are very tame up to the time of the hunting season, and I have thrown green apples at one in open water without being able to make it fly, although the water all but splashed the bird. This seems strange considering the extreme wariness of the adult bird.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

**Ruddy Shelldrake on the Atlantic Coast.**—*Casarca ferruginea* has been taken in Greenland but not in the United States, so far as I know, until recently. A specimen was captured at Barnegat Bay in 1916 by Mr. W. H. Eddy, of Darby, Pa., and was identified by the editor of 'The Auk,' who, on general principles, was disposed to regard it as an escaped bird. Whether this was true or not we cannot know. It appears that the bird is not very uncommon in captivity, for Mr. Lee S. Crandall, Curator of Birds at the N. Y. Zoological Park, tells me that they have specimens there, and that the species has been bred on at least two occasions by Mr. William Bronwin, of Rye, N. Y.

On the other hand, a reported capture of this species on Currituck Sound in North Carolina has been current there for many years. This occurrence was related to me by Mr. W. L. McAtee, of the Biological Survey, but as the specimens were not preserved it did not seem best to note the incident until a specimen actually killed in the United States could be recorded. Mr. Eddy has furnished this specimen.

The reported North Carolina capture took place at a shooting resort kept by Jasper White near what is now known as Water Lily Post Office, Currituck County, N. C. Jasper B. White, the son of the man who kept the resort, was then a young man. A Mr. Fred Simonds, of Reading, England, in company with his uncle, had come to Currituck Sound for the shooting and was staying with J. B. White's father. The two young men were shooting together one day when a flock of five ducks came to them, of which three were shot. These birds were new to J. B. White, but Fred Simonds recognized them and told White that they were Ruddy Shelldrakes. Later, after he had returned to England, Mr. Simonds sent White a copy of 'British Game Birds and Water Fowl,' with colored plates, by Beverly R. Morris, and a letter received at the same time told White that the birds they had shot were figured in the book, and the plate of the Ruddy Shelldrake was at once recognized.

Mr. Jasper B. White writes me that the birds taken in Mr. Simonds' company were killed in 1886. He adds that he has seen birds of this species several times since then, and that they always appear in very cold weather. For some time he has been endeavoring to collect specimens for